

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
COMMITTEE FOR ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION

Minutes of the Meeting

Date, Time, Place: April 11, 2003, 10:30 a.m.
 DTS Conference Room
 650 South King Street, 3rd Floor
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Voting Members present:

Adult Day Care Centers of Hawaii, Helen Meyers
Ho'opono, Dave Eveland
Hawaii Disability Rights Center, Ann Collins
Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Michael Hasiuke for Karen Cavalieri
Kokua Program, U.H. at Manoa, Ann Ito
Easter Seals Hawaii, Linda Guess

Ex-Officio Members present:

Disability and Communication Access Board, Kirby Shaw
Department of Transportation Services, James Burke, Alvina Kubo
Honolulu Committee on Aging, Lois Bunin
Fixed Route and Paratransit Services Contractor, Art Loebel, John Black
State Department of Health, Michael Tamanaha
State Department of Human Services, Dave Eveland

Ex-Officio Member(s) excused:

Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization, Michelle Kurisu

Voting Members unexcused:

Catholic Charities Elderly Service, Tom Baty
ARC of Hawaii,
Komo Mai Center at Leeward Community College, Jeanne Torres

Ex-Officio Members unexcused:

Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Charles Doremus

Guest(s): Morris Nakamura
 Yolanda Phelan – NFB & OMPO CAC
 CC Curry – IACC Org & OMPO CAC

1. Chairperson H. Meyers called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.
2. Attendees introduced themselves. See attached sign-in sheet.

3. The Minutes of the March 14, 2003, meeting were approved with the following changes:

- *Agenda item 3*, March 14, 2002 changed to February 7, 2003.
- *Agenda item 5*, CAT concerns/comments: 2. Changed to read; “Ann recommended that the City Corporation Counsel review the changes to Chapter 13, and Hawaii Disability Rights Center’s legal counsel would also review.”

4. Nomination and Election Committee Recommendations are as follows:

- Chairperson - Dave Eveland
- Vice-Chairperson - Ann Collins

K. Shaw asked for clarification because he thought that the Chairperson needed to be a voting member. It was clarified that D. Eveland was a representative for both a voting agency (Hoopono) and an ex-officio agency (DHS).

H. Meyers indicated that more nominations would be taken from the floor at the next meeting and then voting would be conducted. New chair and vice-chair take office on July 1.

5. Review of Chapter 13

- J. Burke summarized prior meeting discussion concerning language of Medicare card issue, which is still under review by DTS.
- Fare free (for OTS employees) added to ordinance to incorporate current practice.
- *Article 3* is about illegal actions and items on public conveyances; there is no change.
- No changes to *Article 4, Sections 1 and 7. Section 2, Item B*, addition to section in federal regulation defining a “common” wheelchair.
- Change to *Item F*, medical physician to “licensed health care professional” and defines who is a health care professional. This is to conform with current ADA requirements.
- Change “pass” to “identification card” throughout the *Article* because ID card to ride the van is issued and should not be called a pass, which refers to something being purchased in order to ride.
- *4.3 Access, Section C*, change 4 years from “birthday” to “date of approval”, which is currently being done.
- Passengers must show their ID at boarding, and non-payment will result in non-transport. Concern was discussed that if a regular (agency) rider does not have coupon or cash, will OTS not transport that rider? Each case would be taken under consideration on a case-by-case basis, and OTS stated they currently work with the programs, and payment is not an issue.
- *Section D*, change current wording that if applicant has a temporary condition, a “1 year” certification will be made. If they need the service longer, they would have to re-apply to “duration of request” (i.e., 18 months, 2 years, etc.). Duration requested by health care professional is currently being honored.

- 4.5 Fare, recommendation to charge one-half (½) the regular adult fare whenever riding TheBus and showing an ADA ID card (which is currently free processing for card and free rides).
 1. Concern that elderly and SSI riders would not be able to afford this.
 2. Currently the “free” ride on TheBus is an incentive to use TheBus instead of TheHandi-Van, thus leaving TheHandi-Van service for those who really need the service.
 3. Question: When will these changes take effect? Answer: About five to six months after submitted to City Council.
 4. Proposed change was recommended due to concern about people applying for ADA certification and being certified by health care professionals just to get a “free” bus pass.
 5. Question: Why are the health care professionals certifying people who are not qualified? Answer: The applicant may be conditionally qualified and chooses to use only TheBus.
 6. If a fare is charged, the payment method on TheBus must be made accessible.
 7. Need to check (get stricter) on doctors who are certifying people even if they are not qualified. This also causes a loss of income to the City.
 8. If this is passed, many people would be going back to use TheHandi-Van instead of using TheBus.
 9. There is abuse of the system, and this is a very difficult issue to resolve.
 10. Creating a fare system would prove to be a disincentive.
- 4.5 Fare, new additions, d, allows management employees (OTS) to ride free (acceptable by CAT if they are “ADA eligible”) and e, add infant to age five shall not ride unaccompanied (this is also being added to TheBus section too).
- 4.6 Service, change language to indicate “advance” reservation from one to “7” days not 14 days, and creates a paragraph to allow DTS to provide a special transit subscription service (separate demand responsive and subscription service).

It was moved and seconded not to accept the proposed change on charging one-half (½) fare for riding TheBus by showing an ADA eligible ID card. It was also moved and seconded to accept the remainder of the changes except the legal issues with regard to medicare.

6. By-Laws will be placed on next month’s agenda along with elections.
7. New Business/Announcements:
 - April 23, 2003 - Car Free Day Rally at Tamarind Park, 12–1 p.m., mail in coupon to ride TheBus free on that day in the Downtown Planet, Honolulu Weekly, and Advertiser.
 - Mayor’s Senior Recognition Day at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, Coral Ballroom, on Monday, April 14, 2003.
 - Appreciation expressed by C.C. Curry for CAT being very receptive to input from public.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2003. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.